

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR/Iran

DATE DISTR. 2 June 1951

SUBJECT Soviet Activity along the Iranian Border

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The following is a summary of Soviet military activity and the movement of Soviet troops and military equipment along the Iranian border for the period 14-19 May 1951.

1. Pol Dasht
15 May

Eastbound rail traffic from Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa included one carload of boxes of ammunition.

Westbound rail traffic from Dzhusfa to Nakhichevan included one car carrying ammunition boxes.

16 or 17 May

Westbound rail traffic from Nakhichevan to Yerevan included one car carrying machine guns.

18 May

Eastbound rail traffic from Yerevan to Nakhichevan included two ammunition cars.

Westbound rail traffic from Nakhichevan to Yerevan included one car carrying ten antiaircraft guns.

Westbound rail traffic from Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan included 15 cars carrying armed troops and civilians, and one car carrying nine antiaircraft guns.

2. Dzhulfa

Considerable increase in truck traffic was observed.

15 May

Westbound road traffic from Ordubad to Dzhulfa included 26 trucks.

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Eastbound road traffic from Dzhulfa to Ordubad included one truck full of armed troops.

Eastbound road traffic from Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa included 40 trucks carrying 35 civilians and wood.

Ninety soldiers were observed engaging in a military problem and grenade practice.

16-17 May
(report for two days)

Eastbound road traffic from Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa and Ordubad included 151 trucks carrying 51 unarmed soldiers, wood, lumber, and bricks; and one truck-drawn 105 mm. gun.

Westbound road traffic from Ordubad to Dzhulfa and Nakhichevan included 138 trucks carrying 88 unarmed soldiers, coal, and soil.

17 May

Westbound road traffic from Dzhulfa toward Nakhichevan included 23 trucks carrying troops and towing 75 mm. guns.

16 or 17 May

Fifty soldiers were observed engaging in rifle and machine gun firing practice.

3. Sia Rud
16, 17, or 18 May

Westbound rail traffic from Baku to Dzhulfa included five cars carrying unarmed troops.

4. Garmi
(no date given)

Soviet activity has increased in this area, and the number of officers and guards at the posts in the Garmi area has been increased.

5. Astara
15 May

Southbound road traffic from Lenkoran to Astara included 14 vehicles (contents not stated), one truck carrying troops, and two groups of armed infantrymen on foot.

Westbound road traffic from Astara to Masjed Mahalleh included four vehicles carrying nine officers and seven unarmed troops, and one truck carrying unarmed troops.

Eastbound road traffic from Masjed Mahalleh to Astara included three vehicles carrying two armed soldiers and eight civilians.

Westbound road traffic from Masjed Mahalleh to the last western post under observation included four vehicles carrying two officers and three armed soldiers, and one truck carrying civilians.

Eastbound road traffic from the last western post under observation to Masjed Mahalleh included five vehicles carrying six military personnel.

Rifle practice took place along the seashore.

16-17 May
(report for two days)

Southbound road traffic from Lenkoran to Astara included 27 vehicles.

Northbound road traffic from Astara to Lenkoran included 13 vehicles and one group of troops on foot.

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Westbound road traffic from Astara to Masjed Mahalleh included 11 vehicles carrying 19 military personnel.

Eastbound road traffic from Masjed Mahalleh to Astara included four vehicles carrying six military personnel, and one truck carrying unarmed troops.

Westbound road traffic from Masjed Mahalleh to the last western post under observation included 12 vehicles carrying 36 military personnel, and two trucks carrying civilians.

Eastbound road traffic from the last western post under observation to Masjed Mahalleh included 15 vehicles carrying 21 military personnel and 11 civilians, and one truck carrying men and women.

Rifle firing practice took place at Astara.

18 May

Southbound road traffic from Lenkoran to Astara included 12 vehicles, one truck carrying armed troops, and two groups of armed infantrymen on foot.

Northbound road traffic from Astara to Lenkoran included one truck and one group of armed infantrymen on foot.

Westbound road traffic from Astara to Masjed Mahalleh included four trucks with nine military personnel and some boxes of ammunition.

Eastbound road traffic from Masjed Mahalleh to Astara included two trucks carrying three soldiers, and one truck carrying civilian laborers.

Westbound road traffic from Masjed Mahalleh to the last western post under observation included six vehicles carrying 11 military personnel and one civilian.

Eastbound road traffic from the last western post under observation to Masjed Mahalleh included three vehicles carrying four officers.

19 May

Road and rail traffic has increased in this area.

Border posts in the Astara area have stepped up their activity.

6. Lutfabad
14, 15, or 16 May

One gun (caliber not stated) was observed moving by rail from Ashkhabad (37-57N, 58-23E) to Kaakha (37-22N, 59-38E).

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